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There's just as much difference between an Alfred Benjamin Smoking jacket and "the common kind" as there is between Alfred Benjamin suits and the other kinds.

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The Reliable Clothier.

**We Wish All Our
Friends and Customers**

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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ASTORIA'S LEADING HOUSEFURNISHERS
Everything for the home. Ask to see our Jewell ranges.

Local Brevities.

The Astorian and Daily News will not be issued tomorrow.

First-class meal for 15c; nice cake, coffee pie or doughnuts, 5c, U. S. restaurant, 424 Bond street.

There will be no delivery of mail tomorrow, but, as usual on holidays, the office will be open between 12 and 1:30 p. m.

The O. R. & N. steamer Columbia was lying at the company's dock this entire forenoon transferring freight. The vessel is now en route for San Francisco.

The oil carrying steamer Whittier departed this morning for Ventura, Cal., in ballast. She is engaged in carrying oil between California ports and the Columbia river.

All the preparations for the letter carriers' ball, to be held New Year's eve, have been completed, and the function promises to be a most enjoyable one. The ball will be held at the Foard & Stokes hall.

For supper what is nicer than a chicken tamale or a dish of Chile Concarne? And the only place in town to get either is at the National Restaurant, which also serves all kinds of sandwiches and fine steaks and chops.

The bill that passed the house at the special session making gambling a felony punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary failed to reach the senate. It narrowly escaped being killed in the house and its final nonpassage was a foregone conclusion.

Captain Holston will supply 100 needy persons with good dinners tomorrow. The energetic officer has been working for the past six weeks, and the result is that he has on hand an abundance of good things. The stuff will be sent out in baskets, this being deemed more practicable than to have a big spread.

The gasoline schooner Della is at Wilson Bros.' yards, in the west end, where a new house has just been built on the vessel. The house is much larger than the old one and increases her tonnage. This morning Deputy Collector McCue measured the house, but has not yet announced the tonnage showing.

Will Madison will give away six handsome merchaum pipes to as many of his smokers who may be lucky enough to be selected by fortune for the favor. The pipes are very pretty and valuable, and all the smokers are invited to be present. The fun will begin promptly at 9, so all should be present a little before that hour.

The next meeting of the common council will be held at noon on Monday, January 4, at which time the newly chosen officials will be sworn in. There will be but two changes in the council, L. Lebeck taking the seat now occupied by Charles Wilson in the First ward row, and L. O. Belland succeeding Fred Wright, of the Third ward. At this meeting Mayor Suprenant will present his annual message, with recommendations as to the requirements of the municipality for the year.

A letter dated Paso Robles, December 20th, was received this morning from James Urquhart, formerly of this city, stating that he is on his way to the land of the Webfoot. Jim says he will eat his Christmas dinner in San Francisco. Since he was in this city Mr. Urquhart has been on the go all the time, and he writes that he has enjoyed himself thoroughly all of the time "among the orange and lemon groves and beautiful señoritas." He sends greetings to his friends here, with whom he expects to eat his dinner on New Year's day.

Great interest is being taken in the gentlemen's night entertainment to be given at the Commercial Club gymnasium, and the spacious hall will doubtless be crowded. Apart from an interesting program made up of events by members of the club, there will be an exciting boxing contest between Professor Fred Mueller, instructor at the gymnasium, and Perry Queenan, for a decision. This event is attracting considerable attention. The proceeds of the entertainment will be used to fit up the gymnasium, which will, when completed, be one of the most complete athletic halls in the northwest.

The present policy of the government regarding forest reserves will be discussed before the coming convention of the National Livestock association by Governor Heber M. Wells of Utah. The stockmen in all parts of the western

states, and more especially in Utah, Arizona, Wyoming and Oregon declare they have suffered greatly because of the segregating of vast tracts of agricultural and grazing land as part of these reserves and excluding from grazing thereon sheep and in many instances cattle, upon the ground that the livestock injure forest growth.

The pupils of the primary department of the Shively school delighted a large gathering of friends yesterday afternoon by their Christmas exercises. A handsome tree was beautifully decorated, and the room was beautiful with green boughs and glittering tinsel. The program follows: Recitations, "Merry Christmas," Vallie Welch; "If Your'e Good," Nellie Larson; "Of All the Trees," Mabel Larson; "December," Donald Roberts; "At Xmas," Laura Mark; "The Beautiful Tree," Nancy Welch; "A Funny Dream," Charlie Moad; "Santa Claus Coming," Wetzell Griffin; "Little Flo's Letter," Minnie Shub; "Little Dorothy's Xmas," Russell Fox; "Xmas Toys," Dolphy Hardisty; "Do You Know," Jessie Garner.

The escape of the Japanese cook of the oriental liner Indrapura at Portland shows to what extent the deported Japs will take a chance to prevent being sent home. The Japanese government is very strict in punishing criminal acts, and those Japs who try to gain entrance into the United States by means of fraudulent papers are severely dealt with on their enforced return to their native land. The man who escaped from the steamship Tuesday night was handcuffed and closely guarded, but, with rare cunning, he managed to elude the officers. The examination and deportation of Japanese is now the work of the new department of commerce and labor, which will perhaps have some difficulty for a time.

The last contract for enclosing the tide land of W. E. Dement on the Lewis and Clark river has been let to Messrs. J. W. Reith and Lou Wilson. The work consists of filling in a slough and the building of a dyke. The entire strip to be enclosed is 160 feet in length. When this enclosure is made the east side of the river from the bridge to the headwaters will have been redeemed from the encroachments of the tides. The land is some of the most fertile in the county, and its value will be practically doubled. The dairying business will be increased, as the land will be particularly good for such purposes. This last piece of dyke will be hand made and not so large as the balance erected by the Columbia Digger Company.

So far as the defunct recorder's fee law is concerned, the legislature has readjusted matters in a highly satisfactory manner. Not only was the law re-enacted properly, but all collections heretofore made for recording deeds have been legalized. Senator Brownell offered a bill which will prevent the assignment of claims to persons desirous of instituting suit to recover money paid in under the defective law, and the passage of the measure will have the effect of protecting the various counties from great loss. No person would institute suit to recover the amount of three or four fees, but some enterprising person could easily have several hundred claims assigned to him and recover on the full amount to his profit. Such a suit was commenced in Columbia county. The work of the legislature in this respect is highly gratifying to the officials of Clatsop county.

In the circuit court this morning Dr. Charles C. Rosenberg was arraigned on two counts for practicing medicine without a license. To both charges he entered a plea of not guilty. The charges are brought against Dr. Rosenberg at the instigation of the State Medical Association and the Clatsop County Medical Society. It is alleged that Dr. Rosenberg performed operations on two men, and that he did not then have a doctor's license. Members of the county society say they are anxious only to require the doctor to take out a license if he intends practicing here. The case will not be tried at the present term of court, but will go over. Judge McBride said this morning that he would adjourn court this afternoon, but leave matters in such shape that he could come to Astoria and sit for a day or two if necessary. His time will be unoccupied until January 4, and he will remain in Astoria to study up several cases now pending before him.

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The marriage of Mr. Albert C. Ross, of this city, and Miss Maud Ethel Kindred, of Tokeland, Wash., was solemnized at the home of the bride's parents Tuesday evening. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. W. Seymour Short, pastor of Grace church of Astoria. Miss Florence Ross, sister of the groom, was the bridesmaid, and Mr. Nat Tallant the best man. At the conclusion of the wedding the invited guests, about 25 in number, sat down to a wedding supper. Mr. and Mrs. Ross are still at Tokeland, where they will spend Christmas, and on Saturday will arrive in Astoria to take up their residence here.

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James Ashely Jr., of Brookfield is in the city.